

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY:VF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 036167

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: THIRD ROUND COMMUNIQUE

REF: ATHENS 1398

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES DISAPPOINTMENT EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY ATHENS THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT IS UNWILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS RECORDED DURING ROUND III OF OUR BASE NEGOTIATIONS, AND TO CONFIRM THE MUTUALITY OF INTEREST, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE SUPPORT ATTEMPTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY AMBASSADOR KUBISCH AND DCM STEARNS TO CONVINCE GREEK GOVERNMENT OF APPROPRIATENESS OF ORIGINAL US DRAFT COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE.

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2. GIVEN CURRENT SITUATION, HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT EMBASSY ATHENS MAY TABLE THE REVISED TEXT CONTAINED IN PARA 7 OF REFTEL, IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14. BEFORE TABLING DRAFT, YOU SHOULD ALTER FINAL SENTENCE OF PARA 2 TO READ "FURTHER TALKS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE AGREEMENT IS REACHED, ON ACCOUNT OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED." THIS CHANGE WILL AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT "FOURTH ROUND" WILL NECESSARILY

BE FINAL ROUND. YOU SHOULD ALSO SHORTEN NEXT SENTENCE TO READ "IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS FOURTH ROUND WILL BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE." THIS SHORTENING WILL PRECLUDE IMPLICATION THAT THIRD ROUND WAS INADEQUATE TO WARRANT COMMUNIQUE, AND AVOID CREATING IMPRESSION THAT COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING FOURTH ROUND WILL BE DEFINITIVE.

3. IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED ON LANGUAGE YOU TABLE OR SOME VARIANT OF IT, THEN DEPARTMENT SEES NO ADVANTAGE IN ISSUING JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH GREEKS. INSTEAD, GREEKS CAN BE TOLD THAT IF THEY BELIEVE SOME STATEMENT IS NECESSARY NOW, THEY HAVE OUR AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH ONE OF THEIR OWN, USING EITHER THE PREFERRED ALTERNATE TEXT CONTAINED IN PARA 8 OR THE ORIGINAL GREEK LANGUAGE IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL (IN BOTH CASES, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST MODIFICATIONS PARA 2 ABOVE).

4. IF THE GREEKS INDICATE A DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH SUCH A UNILATERAL STATEMENT, YOU MAY ASSURE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THAT WE WILL NOT SEEK TO DISASSOCIATE OURSELVES FROM THE STATEMENT, BUT WILL REFER ALL QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN GREECE ON THE RESULTS OF ROUND III TO THE GREEK PRESS SPOKESMAN. KISSINGER

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